

NEWS RELEASE

Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Forest Service Plans West Scofield Prescribed Fire

This month, the Forest Service will complete the last prescribed fire in an eight-year project to reduce fuels in the Fish Creek Drainage west of Scofield. The Manti-La Sal National Forest, which started the project in 2002, will have treated over 14,000 acres in the drainage when the burn is finished.

If weather and fuel conditions are favorable, fire crews plan to begin burning June 10. They will treat 600 acres in an area at the northeast end of Bean Ridge, on Fish Creek below Silver Creek, and near French Creek. The area is about three miles west of private property near Scofield.

It will be necessary to temporarily close C-Canyon Trail number 223; Bean Ridge, Trail Number 220; Fish Creek Drainage, Trail Number 130; and Gooseberry, Silver Creek 169. Closed areas will be opened when it is safe for the public to enter.

Smoke and flames may be visible from North Skyline Drive, C canyon, Silver Canyon, Fish Creek drainage, Bean Ridge and along Highways 96 and 6 for the next few weeks depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fire activity and smoke are generally greatest during the late afternoons, when temperatures are highest and humidity is lowest.

Visible smoke should not last longer than two to three weeks after the burn is finished. The fuels treatment is intended to reduce the threat of catastrophic fires that could burn across the landscape damaging resources and impacting structures and public safety.

The public can view pictures of the fire and get additional information by visiting www.utahfireinfo.gov or calling the Ferron/Price Ranger District at 435-384-2372.

Prescribed burns are used for a variety of resource benefits including improved wildlife habitat, reduced fuel buildup from insect killed trees, and to support ecosystem diversity. Aspen stands provide critical habitat for many wildlife species, forage for livestock and wildlife, and to protect stream flows in critical watershed. Aspen is being lost by encroachment of conifers. Aspen regenerates by sprouting following a controlled burn or other disturbance.

Fire managers would like to remind everyone to be especially careful with camp fires throughout the coming summer. Remember never leave a camp fire untended. Put it dead out when you leave.

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